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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 July 1953

SUBJECT Construction of Four Inland Waterway Motor Freighters

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The construction of four new motor freighters, each of 700 GRT and 300 hp, which was included in the 1953 investment plan of the Directorate General, Shipping, started in 1952. The vessels were laid on the stocks of the Rostensee State Shipyard and at the Pentze Shipyard near Schoenebeck/Elbe. Each was valued at 812,000 Eastmarks by the Rostensee State Shipyard. The total sum spent on the construction of the four vessels in 1952, amounted to 300,000 Eastmarks which means that the building sum of 2,448,000 Eastmarks must be available in 1953.

According to the building plan, these vessels were to get plates, 6 to 7 mm thick. As, however, this thickness was supplied only for reparations and export orders, 9-mm plates had to be used with the result that the loading capacity of the vessels was reduced. The 300-hp Diesel engines were supplied by the Buckau-Wolf Firm in Magdeburg.

25X1A. [REDACTED] Comment. It is believed that the four vessels are identical with the 700-ton motor barge which was drafted by the design office of the Shipbuilding VEB in Berlin.

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